



Senator Don Benton



Representative Jim Dunn



Representative Marc Boldt

KEEP IN TOUCH

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Committees:

- Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions
- Transportation, ranking Republican

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Committees:

- Higher Education
- Local Government & Housing
- Trade & Economic Development, Vice chair

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Committees:

- Appropriations
- Children and Family Services, Co-chair
- Judiciary

17th Legislative District Survey

Dear Friend,

The 2001 legislative session began on Jan. 8. Because our state operates on a two-year budget cycle, most major policy decisions are made in odd-numbered years when the budgets are written. This year is one of those years.

In addition to the budgets, there are several other extremely important issues being addressed during this 105-day legislative session, including property taxes and our state's election process.

Please take a moment to answer this 2001 survey and mail it back to us in Olympia, it will assist us in representing your views better throughout this important legislative session.

Sincerely,

Don Benton
State Senator

Jim Dunn
State Representative

Marc Boldt
State Representative

Please fold the completed survey into thirds, ensuring that the proper side featuring our return address is exposed, affix a first-class stamp and mail it to us at your earliest convenience. Your opinions are important to us.

Toll-Free Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000



17th Legislative District 2001 Survey

Shade circles like this: ●
Not like this: ☒ ☑
Please write comments **ONLY** in
space provided at the end of survey.

Property Taxes

1. Which of the following measures to limit property taxes do you favor most?

- ☐ Voter approved Initiative 722, which limits the increase in property taxes to the lesser of two percent per year or inflation, should be implemented.
- ☐ Freeze the assessed value of property at the purchase price and allow reassessments only when title transfers occur.
- ☐ Eliminate the state portion of property taxes (Approximately 25% of your property tax bill).
- ☐ Nothing. The current rate of increase is appropriate.

Spending Limit

2. The state's voter-approved spending limit (Initiative 601) should be:

- ☐ Maintained as is, limiting state spending while allowing for increases in spending based on population growth and the rate of inflation.
- ☐ Amended to reflect the increased spending mandated by recent voter approved initiatives.
- ☐ Amended to allow spending to increase at a higher rate.

3. Governor Locke has proposed that the state spending limit created by Initiative 601 should be amended to exclude salary increases for school employees, mandated by Initiative 732, approved by voters last year. Do you agree or disagree with that proposal?

- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree

State Budget

4. Governor Locke states that balancing the budget while providing new funding to meet the state's budget needs will require reductions in existing state programs and services. In what areas would you support spending cuts to help balance the budget? (Identify your top three spending cut priorities.)

- ☐ Public Schools
- ☐ Higher Education
- ☐ Social Services
- ☐ Health Care
- ☐ Natural Resources
- ☐ Environmental Agencies
- ☐ Law Enforcement
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Other (Please specify) _____

Transportation

5. Of the following measures suggested by the Blue Ribbon Commission to raise additional revenue for transportation which, if any, would you favor?

- ☐ Gas tax increase
- ☐ Indexing the gas tax to rise with inflation
- ☐ Adding a sales tax on gas
- ☐ Surcharge on transportation-related goods, such as new and used vehicles, parts and accessories
- ☐ Tolls on roads and bridges
- ☐ A statewide sales tax increase on all purchases devoted to transportation
- ☐ Other (Please Specify) _____
- ☐ No tax increase. Transportation improvements should be made with existing revenue.

6. Should decisions about new taxes to fund transportation solutions be put on the ballot for voters to decide or should the legislature make the decision?

- ☐ Voters should be able to vote
- ☐ The legislature should decide

17th Legislative District 2001 Survey

Education

7. Please rank the following education issues in order of importance to you (1 being the most important).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

- A. Local control
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- B. Ensuring quality teachers in the classroom
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- C. School choice for parents
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- D. Smaller class size
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- E. Teacher pay increases
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- F. Limiting curriculum to academic courses
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- G. Allowing experts without teaching credentials to teach their field of expertise
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

8. Should individual students, their parents and their teachers be allowed to see the results of the Washington Assessment on Student Learning (WASL)?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Elections

9. What's your opinion of the state's blanket primary system in which voters are free to cross back and forth between Republicans and Democrats on the same ballot?

- ☐ Strongly support it
☐ Mildly support it
☐ Mildly oppose it
☐ Strongly oppose it

Crime

10. What is your opinion on nonviolent drug offenders who are currently in prison?

- ☐ They should be released from prison and future nonviolent drug offenders should be placed in drug treatment programs instead of prison.
- ☐ They should serve out their sentences and future nonviolent drug offenders should be placed in drug treatment programs instead of prison.
- ☐ They should serve out their sentences and future nonviolent drug offenders should go to prison for their crime.

Property Rights

11. The bi-state Gorge Commission was created by the federal government to preserve the scenery of the Gorge. The commission is appointed to carry out this mission and is not subject to the public information act. To provide more accountability in their decision-making, should the Gorge Commissioners be elected instead of appointed?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

12. What other issues are important to you? _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please provide your email address if you are interested in receiving regular legislative updates.

Email address _____

13. If you do not have an email address, would you like to receive the regular legislative update through the U.S. mail?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Return mail panel. Tape top edge before mailing.




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17th Legislative District

The 17th legislative district
includes east Clark County
and west Skamania County.

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